

REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS

Coastal Ocean Currents Monitoring Program

Planning Proposal Deadline: July 15, 2003

Projects Shortlist Announcement: November 15, 2003

Detailed Proposal Grants Deadline: May 15, 2004

INTRODUCTION

In March of 2002, the voters of California enacted Proposition 40, the “California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002”, providing bond funding for public financing of projects to acquire and develop land, air, and water resources. In order to implement Proposition 40, the Legislature subsequently adopted the Watershed, Clean Beaches and Water Quality Act of 2002 (AB 2534, Pavley), which appropriated Proposition 40 funding specifically for water quality projects and established statutory guidelines for use of the appropriated funds. Amongst other provisions, the act authorized the State Coastal Conservancy (the Conservancy) to undertake water quality projects by adding Chapter 5.5 to the Conservancy’s enabling legislation (Division 21 of the Public Resources Code) and allocated \$7 million to the Conservancy for the “purchase and installation of equipment to monitor and map coastal currents to predict and determine areas of contamination and pollutant transport in coastal waters”.

Pursuant to the authority and funding provided by AB 2534, the Conservancy intends to offer grants to qualified institutions to plan, develop and implement an integrated coastal ocean observation system (the Coastal Ocean Currents Monitoring Program, or COCMP) to meet the objectives of Proposition 40, AB 2534 and Chapter 5.5 Division 21 of the Public Resources Code. Information generated by this coastal ocean observation system will help state, regional, and local agencies better manage the State’s beaches and coastal water quality in general.

Existing coastal water quality mandates include the following:

- Stormwater management under the federal Clean Water Act
- Polluted runoff control under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act
- The Clean Beaches Initiative (AB411, Wayne, 1997, and related legislation)
- Nonpoint source pollution management as provided for in the California Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program

In addition to these water quality mandates, information from a coastal ocean observation system can potentially help state, regional, and local resource agencies meet some or all of the following existing mandates:

- Fisheries management under the California Marine Life Management Act of 1999 and related legislation

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- Design and evaluation of marine protected areas (MPAs) under the California Marine Life Protection Act of 1999
- Oil spill response under the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act of 1990 and related legislation
- Coastal erosion/sediment transport under the Public Beach Restoration Act of 1999

The Conservancy has chosen to undertake a two-step RFP process (described in the Proposal Process section) to meet the resource management goals generally described above. In this initial phase, the Conservancy is inviting applicants to submit planning proposals. Planning proposals do not result in grant funding but will be used to establish applicant eligibility to proceed to the second proposal stage requiring a detailed proposal.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The Conservancy expects the COCMP to eventually cover the entire coast of California. However, the priority area for this RFP is the California coast from the Mexican border to Point Arena (including the Channel Islands), where some coastal ocean observing system infrastructure already exists. It is expected that the system will encompass the twenty-four nautical mile contiguous zone of the US, with the continental shelf as the priority area.

The Conservancy also recognizes the need to build capacity and fill data gaps in northern California (Point Arena to the Oregon border) where infrastructure is lacking. To that end, funding may be allocated to a successful proposal to initiate the planning and design of a north coast coastal ocean observation system.

ITEMS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

The COCMP will provide funding for the capital costs associated with the design and implementation of current mapping technologies such as High Frequency Radar (HFR), Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCPs) and other instrumentation appropriate to meet the management objectives described above **for a period not to exceed five years**. Integration of data from Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and other expenses associated with data acquisition and assimilation are also eligible. In addition, hardware installation, calibration, initiation of data management, inter-site integration, modeling, and similar personnel start-up costs primarily for technicians are eligible for funding.

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

As described above, the Conservancy will support capital costs necessary to develop the Coastal Ocean Current Monitoring Program to an operational level. Funding from this RFP process is to establish the infrastructure and organizational basis for a coastal ocean currents monitoring program. Operational costs will have to be funded from other sources. Grantees in this program

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will be expected to participate collaboratively with local, state and federal partners in securing operational support. Applicants should be explicit in defining how cost-sharing and matching funds will be used to fund operational costs.

DELIVERABLES

Products expected from the Coastal Ocean Currents Monitoring Program include:

- Web-accessible data as close to real time as is feasible for each technology used;
- Archived data (using media such as DVDs) available on request from agencies or investigators.

Additional data, such as satellite derived sea surface temperature and oil spill images, should reflect the applicant's proposed technologies and be a logical extension of how these data serve the management mandates described above. These products should flow from a data management plan that addresses how data will be managed, integrated and archived.

PROPOSAL PROCESS

The proposal process will be in two stages:

- The ***Planning Proposal*** (covered by this RFP), due July 15, 2003, is an initial stage intended to qualify applicants who will then submit a detailed proposal in phase two. Based on the merits of the planning proposal, the Conservancy will create a short list of qualified candidates from whom a detailed project proposal will be solicited. Candidate institutions or consortia eligible for the full proposal will be notified by November 15, 2003.
- Once the short list is assembled, qualified applicants will have six months to develop a ***Detailed Proposal*** (due May 15, 2004).

In addition, there will be no more than one north coast planning grant (not to exceed \$75,000), to be awarded if a proposal is deemed to have sufficient merit.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Preference will be given to applicants with demonstrated scientific understanding of the issues, experience with relevant technologies, and success in integrating data with state resource management issues.

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Proposals will also be evaluated based on the following considerations:

- Range of resource management mandates addressed by the system design (e.g. water quality, fisheries management, MPA design and evaluation, oil spill response, coastal erosion/ sediment/pollution transport)
- Amount of the California coast covered
- Demonstrated ability to coordinate regional investigators, resource managers and agencies
- Sufficiency of process to facilitate coordination among different areas of the coast
- Integration of physical, biological and chemical data
- Adequacy of data management and distribution plan (see “Deliverables” section)
- Demonstrated data utility to end users
- Adequacy of modeling plan
- Potential to attract additional funding for capital and operational costs

Potential grantees are encouraged to demonstrate matching funds capability and to seek commitments of institutional support. Under Proposition 40, the Conservancy is required to give priority to projects that include a commitment for matching contributions.

Applicants are also encouraged to define linkages to existing coastal ocean observing systems and to collaboratively engage institutional partnerships in developing this system. A proactive process of developing the integrated framework necessary to serve the entire California coast will be a critical element in the proposal evaluation.

RFP REVIEW PROCESS

The proposal review process will include input from a scientific advisory committee and a management advisory committee consisting of resource agency personnel. Both the scientific and management committees will serve ongoing scientific, technical and management functions providing adaptive guidance in the evolution of the Coastal Ocean Currents Monitoring Program.

The science and management committees will assist the Conservancy in shaping the statewide program through negotiated revisions of the successful detailed proposals.

Applicants invited to submit full proposals will be provided detailed guidelines at the time of notification.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Once detailed proposals are selected the program is expected to take up to three years to become operational. Implementation timetables are expected to be site specific.

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PHASE 1 PLANNING PROPOSAL FORMAT

Planning proposals are to be limited to fourteen pages to include:

- Title and abstract page: The title should concisely describe the proposed project. The abstract should not exceed 500 words, and should describe the applicant and summarize the scope of the proposed project, including the geographic coverage of the system.
- Narrative project description, no more than six pages in length
- List of investigators, institutional qualifications and summaries of relevant principal staff (such as data managers), not to exceed four pages.
- List of agency and regional collaborators, not to exceed one page.
- Schedule and budget, not to exceed two pages.
- Relevant publications, not to exceed one page.
- Up to four pages of maps, relevant data or other supporting illustrations.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Submit twenty copies of the planning proposal by July 15, 2003 to:

Coastal Ocean Currents Monitoring Program
Attention: Sheila Semans
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

In addition to the 20 paper copies, applicants are encouraged to submit their proposals via email to: ssemans@scc.ca.gov.

Questions may be submitted by email or by mail; phone calls will not be accepted.